

The PATH, November 7-13, 2021

Theme: November is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, a day of feasting, fellowshiping, football and festival (parade) watching. It is also a day in which we should take time to observe our blessings and be thankful for what God has done. However that day should not just be a Thursday in November, that day should be everyday. What does the Bible say about being thankful and about worship and how does worship affect us? These are some of the questions that we will examine this week.

Monday - Colossians 3

Paul tells the church in Colossians 3:16 to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” What he is saying is simply this: fill your lives with the word of God and then let it come out in the way that you live and the things that you say. Pour God’s word into your life and let it come out in worship. Let God’s word come out of you as you sing. There is a lot that could be said about this but the first thing that we need to notice is that singing wasn’t optional. God commands His people to sing. We are commanded to worship. Why? Because of all that God has done for us. He has been so good to us. How can we not be thankful? He has saved us, how could we keep quiet and not sing. He is with us everyday, He loves us, and He blesses us, so we should gladly bow in worship to Him and lift up our voices in praise. The word “blessed” in the Old Testament carries with it the idea of being lifted up, so when God blesses us He lifts us up. We are told in the Old Testament that we are to “bless the Lord”, so how do we lift Him up? We lift our voices in worship and praise. Worshipping God is a beautiful and wonderful thing, worshipping God is a privilege and worshipping God is also a command, so when we worship we are walking in obedience.

Tuesday - Colossians 3

Paul talks about worship here and indicates to the church that worship can be a corporate calling. We worship God individually and we should worship Him by ourselves, after all even Jesus withdrew to a solitary place to pray, which would have certainly included a time of being thankful, but we are also commanded to worship God with other people. To come together and sing together and lift our voices together. What happens when we do that? It certainly is a witness to those who don’t know Christ. After all, why would people come together and sing on a Sunday morning? The answer has to be because God has been good to them, because they are loved by Jesus and He has saved them. But worship is not only a witness to the world it is also an encouragement to fellow believers. When we lift our voices together and sing, God does something beautiful, He encourages us, as we lift Him up, He lifts us up. When we “bless Him”, He blesses us by encouraging us. Worship is a beautiful thing and in reality it should be the highlight of the week.

Wednesday - Acts 16

Paul and Silas are in prison for preaching the Gospel in Acts 16. It is obviously a hard and harsh situation. They are imprisoned in a culture that is extremely hostile towards the Gospel, so they have to be wondering what is going to happen to them. But instead of “woah is me”, what are they doing?

They are singing and praising God. One commentator rightfully observes that worship strengthens them for whatever lies ahead. Many times we ignore worship, maybe because things have been hard, maybe because we are too tired, maybe because we just don't feel like it, and then when things get hard we say "oh woah is me". Hopefully we put it in different terms but the meaning is still the same. We get down and we pity ourselves. What if instead of ignoring worship or saying we are too tired or whatever, what if we made worship a priority. We wouldn't have to say "woah is me" but instead we would find the strength that we need to face whatever trial or hardship we find ourselves in. Worship gives us strength and when we don't worship, we are missing out.

Thursday - Psalm 5

Worship encourages us, and worship gives us strength, and worship also gives us joy. In many of the psalms, the psalmist links together worship and rejoicing or worship and joy. Psalm 5 tells us to "sing for joy", where Psalm 9 says "I will be glad and sing praises to your name." Psalm 63 reiterates this when it says "you are my help and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy." God has helped the psalmist which indicates that he has been going through some sort of struggle. God has helped him during it and so he sings a song of praise to God. It is a song of joy. That is significant. He is going through some hardship or difficulty yet he is joyful as he sings. Worship gives us joy and helps us to rejoice. In another psalm the psalmist talks about how downcast and depressed he is but then he says I got into the temple and I began to worship and everything changed. Worship changes our hearts, it transforms our outlooks because it gets our eyes off of the problem and on to the one who can fix any problem. No wonder singing and joy are used in such close conjunction all throughout Scripture.

Friday - Ephesians 5

Worship also helps us in our walk with Jesus. Paul tells the church at Ephesus to "pay attention then to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of the time because the days are evil" (5:15-16). Right after that he tells them to "sing and make melody to the Lord with your heart (5:19)." Is that a coincidence? No way! Paul is telling the church if you want to walk right, if you want to truly follow Jesus you have to be a person of worship. If you want to make the most of the time that you have, worship has to be a priority. If you want to be prepared to deal with these "present, evil days" then being thankful to God and singing in worship has to be important to you. One commentator put it this way, "its hard to lie, be selfish, or look at something inappropriate when you are engaged in worship. Worship gives us the strength to say no to temptation and to follow Jesus more closely!"